

Human Services, and Education, just a word or two about the speech of the President of France which we just heard in a joint meeting of Congress. It was truly inspirational. They applauded the United States for our values and urged close cooperation, alliance, and friendship between the United States and France.

He touched some very important subjects, committing France to expanded participation in NATO, to have Europe take over more of its own defense—which is good news for the taxpayers in the United States since our Nation has undertaken more than its proportionate share. He spoke in emphatic terms about the unacceptability of Iran having a nuclear weapon and the pledge of cooperation from France to engage in negotiations and dialog, to see that does not happen.

There were important words about the Mideast peace process, the need to take risks for peace, the need for a secure Israel, the need for release of intervention in Lebanon by Syria, about the importance of having Israel and the Palestinians come to agreement.

It was a very impressive speech. I think it bodes very well for United States-French relations and for greater participation of France in international matters. He also spoke about global warming—received a standing ovation—about the need for U.S. participation with other nations in environmental protection.

LABOR-HHS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. SPECTER. Now on to the discussion about the legislation, the conference report. This bill does not contain excessive funding. What we are looking at is a bill which has a cost-of-living adjustment to what the figure was last year. The President has come in with a figure which is \$3 billion less than last year. When you add the cost of living adjustment, and some very modest increases in very important programs, this is a modest bill.

The National Institutes of Health, which have been increased under the stewardship of Senator HARKIN and myself, has been increased from 12, now to \$30 billion. Last year it was \$29 billion. The extra billion dollars does not even keep up with inflation costs.

We have mine safety, which is a major item. It was pared back as much as can be done consistent with the mine accidents most recently in Utah.

Community health centers are still underfunded. Community health services, as has been noted by the President, are very important programs. GEAR UP, a program to deal with at-risk youth, very modestly financed. Very important to my State, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, which had 406 homicides last year and a real effort to add mentoring to try to take at-risk youth and try to deal with this issue.

It is my hope we can negotiate with the President and come to an accept-

able term. The President has stated his willingness to negotiate on SCHIP where there is a significant difference between what the President wants and what the Congress has legislated. As the facts suggest negotiations ought to be undertaken on SCHIP, they do as well on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

It is my suggestion these bills not be considered together. They violate the rules in their joinder. There will be a point of order raised, and I believe they ought to be separated in accordance with regular Senate rules.

If we combine the Veterans bill with the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill, we have already been advised there will be a veto of both bills. The veterans financing is too important to be delayed. I chaired the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for some 6 years. The additional funds are necessary, and there would be undue delay if they are joined together.

So it would be my hope they will be separated so the veterans funding can go forward, and we can send this bill to the President with a view to negotiating terms. I have been in touch with the White House, talking about the possibility of coming to an agreed settlement so we can move the appropriations process forward and serve the needs of the American people.

In the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NICOLAS SARKOZY'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, nearly two centuries ago, the Congress welcomed back to America a great Frenchman whose bravery during the Revolutionary War still illuminates the pages of our Nation's early history.

The Marquis de Lafayette wanted to come back to thank his Revolutionary companions and to see the effects of the freedom he and other veterans of 1776 had risked their lives to secure.

His 1824 speech at the Capitol was the first ever by a foreign dignitary before a joint session of Congress, and he was introduced by a Kentuckian. Henry Clay happened to be the Speaker of the House at the time, and he said he could not have had a more gratifying duty than to congratulate the Marquis on his return and, as he put it: To assure him of the satisfaction which his presence afforded this early theatre of his glory and renown.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Henry Clay's remarks on that

important occasion be reintroduced and printed in the RECORD, 183 years after they were first recorded there.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mr. SPEAKER then rose, and, in behalf of the House, addressed the Nation's Guest, in the following eloquent strain, adorned by those graces of oratory for which he is distinguished:

"General: The House of Representatives of the United States, impelled alike by its own feelings, and by those of the whole American People, could not have assigned to me a more gratifying duty than that of being its organ to present to you cordial congratulations upon the occasion of your recent arrival in the United States, in compliance with the wishes of Congress, and to assure you of the very high satisfaction which your presence affords on this early theatre of your glory and renown. Although but few of the members who compose this body, shared with you in the war of our Revolution, all have a knowledge, from impartial history, or from faithful tradition, of the perils, the sufferings, and the sacrifices, which you voluntarily encountered, and the signal services in America and in Europe, which you performed, for an infant, a distant, and an alien people; and all feel and own the very great extent of the obligations under which you have placed our country. But the relations in which you have ever stood to the United States, interesting and important as they have been, do not constitute the only motive of the respect and admiration which this House entertains for you. Your consistency of character, your uniform devotion to regulated liberty, in all the vicissitudes of a long and arduous life, also command its highest admiration. During all the recent convulsions of Europe, amidst, as after, the dispersion of every political storm, the people of the United States have ever beheld you true to your old principles, firm and erect, cheering and animating with your well-known voice, the votaries of Liberty, its faithful and fearless champion, ready to shed the last drop of that blood which, here, you so freely and nobly split in the same holy cause.

"The vain wish has been sometimes indulged, that Providence would allow the Patriot, after death, to return to his country, and to contemplate the intermediate changes which had taken place—to view the forests felled, the cities built, the mountains levelled, the canals cut, the highways constructed, the progress of the arts, the advancement of learning, and the increase of population. General, your present visit to the United States is the realization of the consoling object of that wish. You are in the midst of posterity! Every where you must have been struck with the great changes, physical and moral, which have occurred since you left us. Even this very city, bearing a venerated name, alike endeared to you and to us, has since emerged from the forest which then covered its site. In one respect, you behold us unaltered, and that is in the sentiment of continued devotion to liberty, and of ardent affection and profound gratitude to your departed friend, the Father of his Country, and to your illustrious associates in the field and in the Cabinet, for the multiplied blessings which surround us, and for the very privilege of addressing you, which I now exercise. This sentiment, now fondly cherished by more than ten millions of people, will be transmitted, with unabated vigor, down the tide of time, through the countless millions who are destined to inhabit this continent, to their latest posterity."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, historians tell us Members of the Senate